

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the title has been amended to reflect the currently amended claims. The paragraph [0004] has been amended to remove reference to Se-alkylselenocysteine, Se-allylselenocysteine, Se-arylselenocysteine, which do not appear in the currently amended claims. The new paragraphs [0007.1] and [0007.2] have been included in light of the additional pertinent prior art cited by the examiner, identified as A and B in the "Notice of References cited" which formed part of the Office communication dated Oct. 15, 2003. In this context, references U, V, W listed in the "Notice of references cited" have not been included in the currently amended specification for the following reasons:

References U and V have been cited in the original application.

Reference W is no longer relevant in light of the currently amended claims.

The paragraph [0010] has been amended to correct an editorial problem.

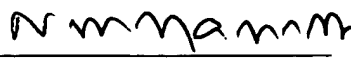
The paragraphs [0011], [0013], [0014], [0015], [0016] have been amended to remove elements that are outside the scope of the currently amended claims. The paragraphs [0020], [0021], and [0022] have been deleted in light of irrelevance to the currently amended claims. The paragraphs [0025], [0028], [0030], and [0031] have been amended to reflect the revised numbering of Examples presented in the specification, necessitated by deletion of paragraphs [0020], [0021] and [0022]. The paragraph [0032] has been amended to reflect the currently amended claims.

Claims 1 to 8 have been amended based on the examiner's comments. Terminating periods have been added to claims 1-8. The word "a" has been introduced in front of the word "methanol" in claim 1. The phrase "such as" has been removed and definitive language has been introduced in claim 1. Claims 3-7 have been amended to remove multiple dependency. In claims 4 and 5, the nesting of the narrow temperature range inside the broad temperature range has been eliminated. Currently amended claims 6 and 7 recite the limitation "the solvent" in line 1. Antecedent basis for this limitation in this dependent claim has been appropriately introduced in currently amended claim 1. Claim 8 has been rewritten to describe the steps involved in the process of racemization of D- or L- Se-methylselenocysteine by the use of benzaldehyde in acetic acid solvent in the temperature range 20-100°C. Claims 9, 10, 11 have been withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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